



# Site Investigation Update

## Barth Smelting Corporation

Newark, New Jersey

MAY 2013

### SAMPLING DATES

The EPA will be in your community collecting additional soil samples this week on **May 15 – 16, 2013**.

These additional soil samples will be collected from the unpaved and grassy areas next to the community building. Additional sampling is being done to define the boundaries of the lead contamination.

*Free blood lead screening is available Monday to Friday for children 0-6 years at the Newark Department of Child and Family Well Being (located in the WIC OFFICE, ask for the lead screening lab):*

**110 William Street  
Newark, NJ 07102**

**Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**If you have any questions regarding the soil sampling, please contact:**

Kimberly Staiger  
On-Scene Coordinator  
(732) 452-6415

Sophia Kelley  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
(212) 637-3670  
[kelly.jessicasophia@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jessicasophia@epa.gov)

Or visit the EPA's website at:  
[www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/BarthSmelting](http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/BarthSmelting)

### SITE INVESTIGATION

In December 2012 the EPA sampled soil at the Terrell Homes playground area. Soil sampling results show that lead levels are above the EPA's Residential Screening Level of 400 parts per million (ppm) in surface and subsurface soils in the old playground areas at the Terrell Homes housing complex along Riverview Court.

Additional soil sampling conducted from March 29 – April 1, 2013 found elevated lead levels above 400 ppm in surface soil in the grassy area next to the Community Building.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE?

On Friday May 10, 2013, Newark Housing Authority installed a temporary "construction-style" fence to immediately restrict access to the grassy area where elevated lead levels were found. On Monday, May 13, the EPA replaced the construction fencing with a temporary chain link fence similar to the one that restricts access to the former playground area. The chain link fences are intended to restrict access to contaminated areas until more permanent measures can be taken.

The EPA will be back at Terrell Homes on Wednesday and Thursday, May 15-16 to collect additional soil samples to further define the extent of the lead contamination. In addition, the EPA will be conducting a second public information meeting in the coming weeks to explain the results of recent sampling and answer questions.

If you would like information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, or if you seek assistance in resolving site-specific issues that were not fully addressed by the EPA, please contact:

George Zachos  
U.S. EPA  
Regional Public Liaison  
(732) 321-6621  
[zachos.george@epa.gov](mailto:zachos.george@epa.gov)

Or toll free at (888) 283-7626

**For health related questions, please call:**

Peter Dillon Jr  
City of Newark Health Department  
Director of Inspections  
Department of Child and Family  
Well-Being  
(973) 733-4315

Shonda Bryant  
City of Newark Health Department  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Program Coordinator  
(973) 733-5323

## **SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR LEAD EXPOSURE**

The EPA recommends that children be kept away from the chain link fence areas on the Terrell Homes property. Low levels of lead contamination in soil are not unusual throughout many urban areas. The EPA therefore recommends the following steps to reduce your potential exposure to lead contamination that may be present in surface soils.

- Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in any dirt that may be on your shoes.
- Adults and children should frequently wash hands and face, especially after coming in from outside and before eating or drinking.
- If you are a smoker, wash your hands before smoking.

If you have any concerns about lead exposure, please contact the City of Newark Health Department for more information.

## **HISTORIC OPERATIONS**

The New Jersey Zinc and Iron Company, also known as the Newark Zinc Works, operated on the property now occupied by the Terrell Homes, the neighboring property at 99 Chapel Street, and a small portion of the Riverfront Park. The zinc facility operated on this location from 1848 to 1910. When New Jersey Zinc and Iron Company closed, the buildings were demolished and the property was then sub-divided into five lots and sold.

In the 1930s, General Lead & Battery, a battery manufacturing facility, operated on three of the five lots (known as 99 Chapel Street) that were formerly owned by New Jersey Zinc & Iron Company. From 1946 to 1982, Barth Smelting Corporation operated on the 99 Chapel Street property producing brass and bronze ingots and non-ferrous metals and alloys. Currently a cargo securing company operates on this property.